

# **The Principles of**

## **War**

**Mass**  
Mass the effects of overwhelming combat power at the decisive place and time.

### **Offensive**

Seize, retain, and exploit the initiative.

### **Surprise**

Strike the enemy at a time or place or in a manner for which he is unprepared.

### **Simplicity**

Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and concise orders to ensure thorough understanding.

### **Maneuver**

Place the enemy in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of combat power.

### **Objective**

Direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable objective.

### **Unity of Command**

For every objective, seek unity of command and unity of effort.

### **Security**

Never permit the enemy to acquire unexpected advantage.

### **Economy of Force**

Employ all combat power available in the most effective way possible, allocate minimum essential